

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE
"ART IN THE RIGHT PLACE"
525B-309 - Revised Final Draft
Written by Paul Chang

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INT. MCGEE HOME - MOLLY'S ROOM - DAY

SCRATCH carefully applies the final brushstroke to his painting: a BANANA SHIP WITH A LONE MONKEY CAPTAIN in the moody, impressionistic style of his painting in Ep 239.

1 SCRATCH

I call this piece *Nautical Journey in the Key of Longing*. See, the monkey captain has all the banana he wants... but he can't eat it, or the ship will sink! A metaphor for the twisted irony of existence!

MOLLY looks over from her painting (a VERY WONKY POTATO-LIKE KITTEN SLIDING DOWN A SLIDE).

2 MOLLY

I call mine *Kitten on a Slide*. Because it's... a kitten. On a slide.

3 SCRATCH

Ooooh, that's what that is? Thought it was a moldy potato rolling down a hill.

4 MOLLY

Hey!-- Oooh yeah. I see the potato.

Scratch "frames" his painting with his hands.

5 SCRATCH

I'm on an artistic roll! Oh, how I envy the eyes that have yet to behold my brilliance.

6 MOLLY

Yeah but Scratch, you're a ghost... and this is a *middle school art fair*...

Scratch frowns, disappointed.

7 SCRATCH

Hm. Yeah. Cancel the beholding.

Molly zips her painting into her BACKPACK, then turns around to collect her stationery from the desk.

8 MOLLY

Well, even though the world won't see your art, I love it! And isn't that enough?

As she speaks with her back turned, Scratch hesitates... then he secretly switches their paintings in her backpack.

9 SCRATCH

Yes. That's enough. (chuckles)

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LATER

The art fair is underway, filled with KIDS and PARENTS. THE MCGEES and Molly admire LIBBY'S TURTLE COLLAGE.

10 MOLLY

Libby, you've outdone yourself!
These greens are so... green!

Scratch looks around, impatient.

11 SCRATCH

Ugh. Everywhere I look, it's macaroni and handprints.
(inspects a piece)
Is that a fusilli?? C'mon that's an easting pasta not an art pasta!
Amateur hour.

Mom looks around, nostalgic.

12 MOM

This takes me back! When I won my first art fair, I knew I was born to be an artist! (then) Not that art is all about winning, Molly--

13 MS. MILO (O.S.)

WE HAVE A WINNER! MOLLY MCGEE!

Mom spins, pumping her fists, in front of other kids.

14 MOM

YES! IN YOUR FACE, YOU FINGERPAINTING HACKS! MY DAUGHTER CRUSHED YOU!
(quickly to Molly)
Not all about winning.

Everyone turns to the JUDGES (MS. MILO, PRINCIPAL O'CONNOR, MS. LIGHTFOOT), standing beside a VEILED PAINTING.

15 MS. MILO

Molly has delivered a piece of art
the likes of which Brighton Middle
School has never seen! An artistic
genius walks among us!

16 MOLLY

Me? Well, I mean, I guess my potato
kitten was kind of--

Ms. Milo unveils the winning painting to REVEAL-- it's
Scratch's painting!

17 MOLLY (CONT'D)
WHAT THE CORN?!

Molly looks between the painting and Scratch.

18 MOLLY (CONT'D)
SCRATCH! Oh no, no, no, no... Hold
on, Ms. Milo!

Molly starts towards the Judges, but Scratch blocks her.

19 SCRATCH

Molly! Hear me out! Like so many
great artists, people only
appreciate me now that I'm dead!
But being dead, it's hard to be
appreciated... You see the paradox
here.

(then)
Can't you just pretend my art is
yours, so I can have this ONE win?

20 MOLLY
I don't know...

As Molly hesitates, Mom runs over and grabs her in a hug.

21 MOM
Finally, someone in this family who
I can relate to as a painter!

Mom scrutinizes "Molly's" painting.

22 MOM (CONT'D)
Artist-to-artist: this is way
better than your potato-rolling-
down-hill phase.

Scratch shrinks down like a devil on Molly's shoulder.

23 SCRATCH

See? Look how happy your mom is!
You don't want to take that away
from her, do you?

Molly whispers out of the corner of her mouth.

24 MOLLY

She does seem really enhappified...
And if it would mean a lot to
you... Okay fine! I'll do it!

25 SCRATCH

Yes!

Dad watches Mom hugging Molly, a pensive look on his face...

INT. MCGEE HOME - DARRYL'S ROOM - LATER

Dad's pops into Darryl's doorway holding a massive TUB OF BUILDING BLOCKS.

26 DAD

Heeey Darryl! Fancy seeing you here! What are the odds?!

27 DARRYL

This my room, so... pretty good?

28 DAD

HAHAHA! Oh, we have the best father-son banter, don't we? Hey, Mom and Molly have their art thing, so I figured we could hang -- two dudes, dad and son -- you son, me dad...

(hears how that sounds)
But not like cavemen, just regular, today men.

29 DARRYL

Wha...?

30 DAD

Ignore that last thing... Anyway, wanna build a town out of Click Bricks like we used to?

But Darryl is distracted by his PHONE.

31 DARRYL

Not a great time, Dad. I'm closing a deal on a below-market wrecking ball. And before you ask why I need a wrecking ball: don't.

32 DAD

Ok, ok, cool! Maybe later?

33 DARRYL

Yeah, uh-huh, sure, pencil me in--

Distracted, Darryl shuts the door in Dad's face.

34 DAD

Darryl used to love building miniature presidential libraries! Now he's a preteen and already too busy for his old man.

Dad collapses under the weight of the building blocks. He pops back up, distraught.

35 DAD (CONT'D)

Soon he'll be off to college and/or white collar prison. And he'll never call! We'll be distant strangers!

He pulls out his PHONE.

36 DAD (CONT'D)

No! We will NOT drift apart!
(typing)
How to bond with your son.

He pulls up a BUZZFEED-ESQUE LIST: "40 WAYS TO BOND WITH YOUR SON." The first activity is FISHING.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Ms. Milo hangs "Molly's" painting (now FRAMED) on the wall in front of a surprised Molly and delighted Scratch.

37 MS. MILO

A true masterpiece, Molly. You should be very proud of yourself.

38 SCRATCH

Oh, I am!

39 MOLLY

Uh, thank you, Ms. Milo. Feels like I barely did anything.

NASHUA steps up and inspects the painting with a JEWELER'S LOUPE as other KIDS watch.

40 NASHUA

Incredible technique! Amazing artistry! She even used--
(examines closer)
REAL PAINT!

The students <GASPS>.

41 KAT

You're sure it's not scented? Or washable?!

42 NASHUA

No, Kat. This is the work of someone with the confidence *not* to get paint on their pants.

He starts CLAPPING for Molly and other kids JOIN IN.

43 SCRATCH

Soak in the applause, Mol! You should get a little residual praise.

Molly looks around and takes in everyone smiling and applauding. She smiles back, starting to enjoy the attention.

EXT. BRIGHTON LAKE - DAY

Dad paddles a confused Darryl on a FISHING BOAT.

44 DAD

Lifelong memories, here we come!

45 DARRYL

I thought you said we were going to a wrecking ball factory?

46 DAD

This is better! Father and son, out on the open water, getting their bond on! You're gonna LOVE it!

Dad checks his phone while reaching into a CAN LABELED "BAIT."

47 **DAD** (CONT'D)
 Now says here the first step is to
 "bait the hook with--"

He raises his other hand to reveal it's covered with WORMS.

48 **DAD** (CONT'D)
 --LIVE WORMS!" WORMS?! WORMS!
 SQUIGGLY SLIMY WORMS!!! AHHH!

Dad runs around the boat until he capsizes it, throwing Darryl and himself overboard. SPLASH! A LONG BEAT... then Darryl surfaces... followed by a miserable Dad.

49 **DARRYL**
 I definitely don't love this.

50 **DAD**
 Same.

INT. BRIGHTON NURSING HOME - DAY

Molly gives a Bob Ross-style painting demonstration in front of a group of IMPRESSED SENIORS. Scratch POSSESSES MOLLY'S PAINTING HAND, painting at LIGHTNING SPEED. Nearby, PATTY holds a breakdancing pose, as Molly's art model.

51 **MOLLY**
 Just a little longer folks! Letting the inspiration flow through me!

We hear something <CRACK!> in Patty's knee.

52 **PATTY**
 I'm good! Keep painting!

DING! Molly checks her PHONE with her free hand to see a TEXT FROM LIBBY. She <CHUCKLES> and types back, while continuing to paint "effortlessly." The seniors' mouths drop.

53 **SCRATCH**
 Little magenta here, a touch of fuchsia there! Perhaps a dollop of vermillion? Scratch -- you wouldn't dare... Or would you? And... done!

Scratch flies out of Molly's hand. REVEAL: A PICASSO-ESQUE PORTRAIT of Patty breakdancing.

54 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 I don't want to get ahead of myself, but what's the submission process like at the Louvre?

He puffs up as ELBERT approaches, and shakes Molly's hand.

55 ELBERT

Had to come shake the hand of a fellow painter. I used to paint houses, which is pretty much the same thing.

56 SCRATCH

It is not, sir.

57 LINDA

Can I take a picture?

REVEAL LINDA with her TABLET in camera mode and a LINE OF SENIORS waiting to take selfies. Molly blinks, surprised.

58 MOLLY

Uh... sure!

59 SCRATCH

What's this?! Hellooo, the art is over here!

He nudges the painting into the background as Molly snaps selfies with the seniors. Off Scratch's dawning realization that this might not be what he intended...

SONGBURST: "THIS WASN'T THE PLAN." A song about Scratch's and Dad's plans not turning out as they wanted. Scratch gets increasingly frustrated as Molly soaks up all the attention and gets more and more "arty." Meanwhile, Dad frantically tries to bond with Darryl based on the internet list, but his attempts end in catastrophe.

-- Molly walks down the hall past awed students. Scratch (in a BERET) struts beside her, trying to soak in the vibes vicariously -- but he's trampled when Molly is swarmed by students looking for autographs (which she signs with her PAINTBRUSH).

-- Dad squints at a LAPTOP as he and Darryl try to bake BREAD. Darryl accidentally adds too much YEAST, and the DOUGH FILLS THE ENTIRE ROOM.

-- Mom gives Molly new paint brushes, wiping away a proud tear. Molly throws the old paintbrushes behind her, landing with a SPLAT on Scratch's face.

-- Dad and Darryl play BASKETBALL, but Dad's wild pass ricochets and hits Darryl in the head, then Dad in the head.

-- Molly puts on a BERET. I mean, she's the artist, after all! TWINSIES!! Scratch fumes.

-- Dad and Darryl go camping and get tangled in a TENT! Right when they've finally set it up... they're chased by a BEAR!
END SONGBURST.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Molly (in her beret and round, colored glasses), is being interviewed by JOANIE PATAKI in front of "her" painting. A small audience watches while Scratch floats nearby.

60 JOANIE PATAKI

Molly, your paintings have grabbed all of Brighton by the heart. What does this latest piece mean to you?

61 SCRATCH

FINALLY! Make sure you convey the twisted irony--

62 MOLLY

Joanie, it's a metaphor...

63 SCRATCH

Good, right--

64 MOLLY

...for existence...

65 SCRATCH

Yes. Keep going... Dark and twisty!

66 MOLLY

And how... we're all the monkey captains of our own destinies! If you can dream it, you can do it!

67 SCRATCH

WHAT?! WRONG TWIST! My art is NOT your 'enhappification' thing!

68 JOANIE PATAKI

Now, we have a surprise guest!
 MAYOR BRUNSON!

MAYOR BRUNSON stands up from where he's been crouching behind a KID and approaches Molly.

69 MAYOR BRUNSON

Surprise! I've been here this whole time. (then) I'm here to ask our local art prodigy to create a town mural that represents Brighton!

(MORE)

MAYOR BRUNSON (CONT'D)

Tomorrow! Live! In front of all
your friends and neighbors!

Molly beams as Scratch's jaw drops.

70 MOLLY

Nothing would make me happier than
to bless Brighton with my brush.

As the hallway clears, Scratch gets in Molly's face.

71 SCRATCH

Your brush??

72 MOLLY

Technically it *is* my brush and my
hand...

73 SCRATCH

Capital W WOW. Unbelievable. Good
luck painting that mural with *your*
hand and *your* brush because I'm
OUT!

Molly goes pale.

74 MOLLY

What?! But I can't paint! You said
my kittens look like potatoes!

Off Molly's panic, Scratch floats away.

INT. MCGEE HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dad looks at a PHOTO of him and Baby Darryl. As he brings the photo up to his face, he accidentally tears it in half. Darryl enters as Dad wails:

75 DAD

We've done all 40 father-son
bonding activities, and they did
NOT bond us!

He holds up his phone, showing the list.

76 DAD (CONT'D)

We're drifting apart, and there's
nothing I can do to stop it!

77 DARRYI

Is *that* why you've been acting so
weird?

(MORE)

DARRYL (CONT'D)

Dad, we're not growing apart --
it's just that none of these
activities are *me*. Or *you*!

Darryl sits next to Dad.

78 DARRYL (CONT'D)

I mean... camping, baking,
basketball? *Fishing*? Dad. We are
not fisher guys.

79 DAD

Is that what they're called?
"Fisher guys?"

80 DARRYL

Maybe? I dunno. Probably.

81 DAD

So we're not drifting apart?

82 DARRYL

No! I'm down to hang, as long as
it's something that we *both* enjoy.

(then, devious)

Hey, still got those Click
Bricks...?

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

An anxious Molly stands with Mayor Brunson at the BLANK MURAL WALL, in front of an expectant CROWD. Scratch watches from the BACK OF THE CROWD, gleeful.

83 SCRATCH

Let's see how she likes the
spotlight now!

Molly squirms, panicking.

84 MOLLY

You know, now that I'm here,
looking at this very big, very
blank wall, I'm realizing I'm in
more of a sculptural phase. Maybe
someone should take this over?
Elbert used to paint houses! Or...

Molly spots Ms. Milo in the crowd.

85 MOLLY (CONT'D)

MS. MILO!

Ms. Milo holds up her hands, declining.

86 MS. MILO

Please, Molly. I'm not worthy of
your brushes.

Molly sweats as Mom approaches, encouraging.

87 MOM

Express yourself, Molly! Art is a
way for people to see you! It says
"I WAS HERE!" and it'll be visible
as long as this wall stands!

At Mom's words, Molly stops.

88 MOLLY

See... I was here... Visible...

Her eyes go wide as she realizes--

89 MOLLY (CONT'D)

As a ghost, Scratch's art is the
only way people can see him! That's
why he switched our paintings!

90 MOM

Scratch what?
(realizing)
This is Scratch's-- Ahhhh. That
makes way more sense.
(trying to be nice)
Stickers are more your medium.

Molly turns and speaks to the crowd.

91 MOLLY

Everyone! I have something to say!
You all think I painted that
painting... But I didn't.

People in the crowd look at each other, confused.

92 MOLLY (CONT'D)

I was just channeling my artistic
spirit. I call it... Scratch.

Scratch looks up at the mention of his name. He softens:

93 MOLLY (CONT'D)

Scratch is the true artist, not me.
When you look at this mural that I
hopefully will paint here today...
think of Scratch.

(MORE)

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Imagine him being blue and squishy,
maybe some taco shell crumbs on his
chin--

She's losing the crowd. Scratch checks his face for crumbs.

94 MOLLY (CONT'D)

You know what -- just know that
this is because of Scratch and not
me. Thank you!

Scratch floats to Molly. He bashfully twiddles his thumbs.

95 SCRATCH

Pretty good confession speech. I
give it an eight out of ten.

96 MOLLY

It was on the fly and from the
heart -- feels like that should get
me some extra points--

97 SCRATCH

Fine, fine, 8.5/10.

98 MOLLY

I'm sorry, Scratch! I guess I got
carried away...

99 SCRATCH

That's okay. It's nice to have a
friend who really sees me.

100 MOLLY

If you want, this mural is a way
for all of Brighton to see you.

They share a smile as we CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - LATER

Scratch (possessing Molly's hand) puts the final brushstroke on his MURAL: A LEMMING HOLDING A TURNIP (A LA SHAKESPEARE) AT THE BRIGHTON BANDSHELL. Scratch flies out of Molly's hand, and they both admire his piece.

101 MOLLY

This is your best piece yet! What
could be more Brightonian than a
lemming holding a turnip at the
bandshell?

The town <OOHs and AAHs>. But Scratch frowns.

102 SCRATCH

Yeah, but... Something's missing...

103 MOLLY

What's that?

104 SCRATCH

Enhappification.

105 MOLLY

Awww, Scratch!!

Molly smiles, then paints a WONKY RAINBOW in the background. They admire it for a beat. Then--

106 SCRATCH/MOLLY

Still looks like a potato./Yep, I see it.

They look up at the sound of <JOYOUS YELLS> in the distance.

107 MOLLY

What's...?

Everybody winces and runs as CLICK BRICKS fall like hail from the sky.

EXT. MCGEE HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Dad and Darryl sit on a WRECKING BALL and swing towards a half built/half destroyed MINIATURE TOWN OF CLICK BRICKS.

108 DAD/DARRYL

WHHHHOOOOOO!/Best father-son day ever!!

As they connect with the remaining buildings and launch the bricks into the air, we CUT TO...

THE END.